Dewan's reply.—I do not think that, after all, you are so badly neglected as you seem to imagine. Of late, attention has been paid to Central and North Travancore in the matter of affording better means of communication. I know there is a complaint of the kind you have mentioned. As much attention as was desirable was not perhaps paid to North and Central Travancore in the past, probably because of the natural facilities in the shape of backwaters and rivers which, however, do not exist in South Travancore. However, I shall keep your representation in mind. The requests made in regard to the roads will be noted for consideration.

86. Improvement of the means of communication in the Minachil taluk.

Mr. Ulahannan Ulahannan (Member, Minachil taluk) said that there were not sufficient means of communication in the taluk and prayed for the speedy completion of the following public works:—

(1) The conversion of the following village roads and paths into public roads :

(*a*) Village road from Lalam to Ramapuram.

The Member said that the people had almost finished the road, and that two small bridges and a few culverts had to be made and he prayed that those works might be completed by the department and the road opened from the day of His Highness' approaching *Shashtipurthi*.

(*b*) The village road from Bharananganam to Ponkunnam road through Edamattam.

(*c*) The path from Mankombu road to Antheenattu through Pravithanam.

(*d*) The village road from Ettumanoor-Lalam road to Ettumanur-Kuthattukulam road.

(2) The opening of a village road from the 3rd mile of the Lalam-Thodupuzha road to Ramapuram through Ezhacherri.

(3) The early construction of the sanctioned bridge over the Minachil river on the Lalam-Ponkunnam road.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to the bridge referred to by the Member, an estimate for Rs. 44,200 has been sanctioned for the same recently and the work will be taken up in the order of urgency. The other points are noted.

87. Construction of a cart road from the 8th mile on the Perumbavur-Puthencruz road to Alwaye.

Mr. Mathu Ithapiri Tharakan (Member, Kunnathnad taluk) said that there were very few roads in the taluk and that the Muvattupuzha-Mamala road and the Alwaye-Perumbavur road lying in the southern and northern extremities of the taluk were more useful to the people of the adjoining taluks. The Member prayed that a public road might be opened from a place between the 8th and 9th miles on the Perumbavur-Puthencruz road to Alwaye, passing through the Kumarapuram market. There was already a village road from Alwaye to Kumarapuram. He said that the proposed road would add to the importance of the Kumarapuram market, that it would be useful for transporting goods to Cochin and other places and also for the transport of manure, that the Government would get some revenue from customs duty on goods that passed to Cochin and that the road would also help to prevent smuggling by land.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

88. Means of communication in the Parur taluk.

Mr. G. Harihara Iyer, B. A., B. L. (Member, Parur taluk) said that the taluk was intersected by a net-work of canals, that the means of communication in the taluk

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

were extremely poor, roads being practically non-existent and that several canals were not provided with bridges. The only metalled road in the taluk, the one leading to Alwaye, was very poorly maintained. The bridges and culverts on the road were ricketty and dilapidated. The application made by certain persons to establish a motor service between Parur and Alwaye was not granted owing to the bad state of the road. The only road in the Vadakkekara *pakuthi*, namely, the one leading to Kuriappally, was utterly neglected. It was a sort of combined road and canal. Travelling was possible along the road only in canoes. The Member prayed that the condition of the above roads might be improved.

He next pointed out that the canal connecting Cheriapalli with Puthenthode did not serve the purpose for which it was intended and prayed that the canal might be deepened.

A few of the narrower and smaller canals were provided with ladder-bridges at a limited number of crossings. Being cheap, their number could be increased at a comparatively small cost. The Member suggested that a few of such bridges might be constructed at least in all important crossings.

The ferries leading from the town to Vadakkekara and Chennamangalom respectively were inconvenient and also dangerous at times. The Member requested that the above ferries might be replaced by *pucca* bridges as early as possible.

In consideration of the persistency with which the subject had been brought up at successive sessions of the Assembly, the Member requested that his representations might receive the kind and sympathetic consideration of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

89. Improvement of the Mankulam-Munnar section of the Western Outlet road.

Mr. A. J. Wright (Member, the Kannan Devan Planters' Association) said that the work appeared as a deviation line between Anakulam and Munnar and had been in progress for several years. The present representation was a plea for completion and not for improvement. The distance from Mankulam to the junction of the existing road at Kallar was 15 miles. All earthwork, culverts, bridges, etc. were completed up to 5 miles and work was being done up to the 8th mile, leaving 7 miles untouched.

The Member also pointed out the necessity for an additional ferry boat for conveying loaded carts across the Periyar river and said that the existing boat was unserviceable and needed repairs and that there was sufficient work for a second one.

Finally, the Member conveyed to the Government the thanks of his Association for the ready appreciation of the grievances of the planting community with regard to the double duty on exports of tea and for the prompt steps taken to remedy matters.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions of the Member will be considered.

90. Additional grants for the roads in the Peermade hills and repairs to a portion of the Kottayam-Kumili Road.

Mr. Robert Tait (Member, the Central Travancore Planters' Association), said that he felt uncertain as to whether the Government fully realised the claims which the Kottayam–Kumili Road was entitled to from the nature of its position. Otherwise, it would always have been kept in a state of thoroughly good repair. There were two sections of the road, namely, the portion between the 35th and 38th miles and also the portion in the neighbourhood of Vandiperiyar. The latter portion was reported to be under repair. The present condition of the former was extremely bad and, unless it received immediate attention, it would, in the near future, become useless for traffic. The Member, therefore, requested that the entire length of the road might receive the attention of the Government at the earliest possible moment.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly